

Coburn Amendment 1003—To prohibit tax evaders from receiving government assistance, including grants, contracts, loans, and tax credits provided in the Farm Bill (exempts SNAP)

Reducing our national debt—which now exceeds \$16.8 trillion—is the most critical issues facing our nation. Our country simply cannot survive if we continue down this unsustainable course.

Savings—no matter how big or small—are necessary from all facets of the federal budget. While millions of Americans continue to send back portions of their hard earned wages to Washington, some are failing to contribute. Congress should not continue to provide federal subsidies of any kind to individuals or companies that are cheating the system and refusing to pay their fair share of taxes—what they legally owe the government.

This amendment would prohibit any tax evaders from receiving any federal financial assistance, including subsidies, loans, grants, contracts, tax credits, and other forms of assistance in this legislation from provided to individuals and entities that are seriously delinquent in their tax debt to the United States Treasury.

This amendment is more than fair. It will only prohibit federal assistance for those who have willfully neglected to pay their incomes taxes and excludes individuals who have made a good faith effort on their part to pay up.

The assistance prohibition would not apply if:

- 1) The individual is currently paying the taxes, interest, and penalties owed to IRS under an installment plan;
- 2) The individual and the IRS have worked out a compromise on the amount of taxes, interest and penalties owed and the compromise amount agreed upon is being repaid to IRS;
- 3) The individual has not exhausted his or her right to due process under the law (broad exception that references administrative or judicial remedies); or

4) The individual filed a joint return and successfully contends that he or she should not be fully liable for the taxes, interest, and/or penalties owed because of something that the other party to the return did or did not do (relevant in divorce cases).

Further, the provision would not apply to recipients of SNAP payments provided in the bill.

Farm income is subject to very little scrutiny and reporting requirements. In fact, there was a 78% reporting gap in farm income reported to the IRS.

This is by far the highest gap in individual income reporting to the IRS. In a time of strict budgets, as many in Washington are calling for increased revenue, it is inappropriate for Congress to provide any funding to individuals who owe bad taxes and are not fully compliant with the law.

While millions of Americans continue to send back portions of their hard earned wages to Washington, it is unfair to provide scarce federal funding to those who are failing to contribute their share.

Unpaid Taxes in the United States

Total taxes owed in 2006: **\$2.66 trillion**

Gross tax gap for 2006 (taxes owed but not collected on time): **\$450 billion**

Net tax gap in 2006 (taxes still not paid after late payments and enforcement): **\$385 billion**

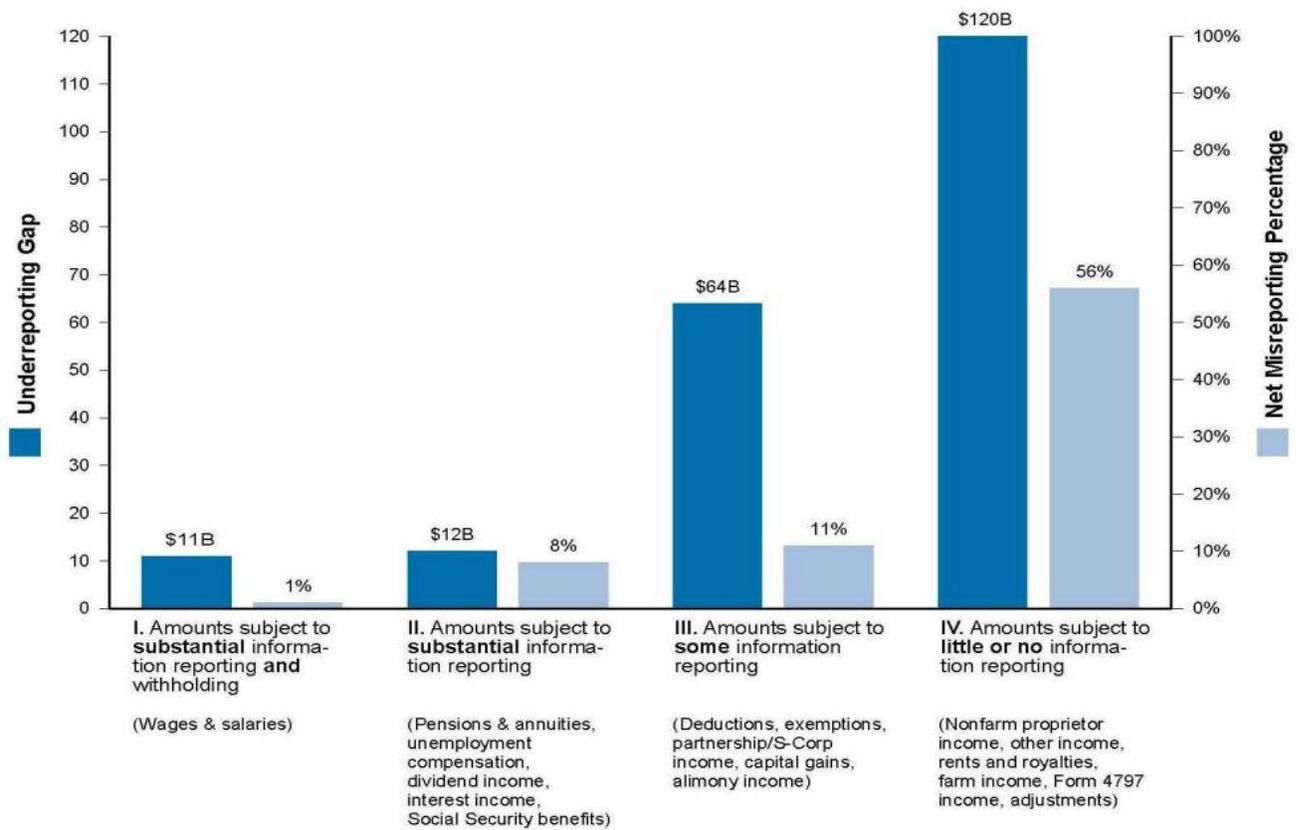
According to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the “tax gap,” the difference between the amount legally owed in taxes and the amount actually collected, was \$385 billion in 2006, the most recent year for which data is available, representing an 85.5 percent compliance rate.

Reasons for gross tax gap in 2006:

Not filing at all: **\$28 billion**

Chart 1: Effect of Information Reporting on Taxpayer Compliance

Tax Year 2006 Individual Income Tax Underreporting Gap and Net Misreporting Percentage, by "Visibility" Category



NOTE: Net Misreporting Percentage is defined as the net misreported amount of income as a ratio of the true amount.
Internal Revenue Service, December 2011

Underpayment: **\$46 billion**

Underreporting of income: **\$376 billion¹**

¹ <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=252038,00.html>

Individual Income Tax Underreporting Gap Estimates, Tax Year 2001

<i>Type of Income or Offset</i>	<i>Tax Gap (\$B)</i>	<i>NMP †</i>
Total Underreporting Gap	197	18%
Underreported Income	166	11%
Non-Business Income	56	4%
Wages, salaries, tips	10	1%
Interest income	2	4%
Dividend income	1	4%
State income tax refunds	1	12%
Alimony income	*	7%
Pensions & annuities	4	4%
Unemployment Compensation	*	11%
Social Security benefits	1	6%
Capital gains	11	12%
Form 4797 income	3	64%
Other income	23	64%
Business Income	109	43%
Nonfarm proprietor income	68	57%
Farm income	6	72%
Rents & royalties	13	51%
Partnership, S-Corp, Estate & Trust, etc.	22	18%
Overreported Offsets to Income	15	4%
Adjustments	-3	-21%
SE Tax deduction	-4	-51%
All other adjustments	1	6%
Deductions	14	5%
Exemptions	4	5%
Credits	17	26%
Net Math Errors (non-EITC)	*	

† NMP = Net Misreporting Percentage

* Less than \$0.5 billion.